

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration is requested.

In item 1 on page 2 of the Office Action, the title of the invention was objected to as not being descriptive. Accordingly, the title has been changed to PLAYBACK METHOD FOR AN AFTER-RECORDING OPERATION.

In item 3, claims 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirayama (US 5,652,824).

Claim 29 recites a playback method for an information recording medium, wherein the information recording medium includes an area for storing stream data including a first audio stream, and a second audio stream provided for an after-recording operation. Claim 29 also recites that the information recording medium includes an area for storing management information including status information indicating whether or not the second audio stream is provided for the after-recording operation and whether or not after-recording data is recorded to the second audio stream. The playback method recited in claim 29 includes receiving a request for after recording, checking the status information, and noticing that the second audio stream has already been after recorded.

Thus, the playback method according to claim 29 is based on an audio stream that is provided for an after-recording operation. The method checks status information and notices that after-recording data has already been recorded to the second stream. When new after-recording data is recorded to the second stream in which old after recording data has already been recorded, the old after-recording data would be deleted. Therefore, noticing that after-recording data is already recorded to the second data stream informs the user that the data on the second stream would be overwritten and thus can prevent the data on the second stream from being unintentionally deleted.

Hirayama discloses a multilingual recording medium and reproducing apparatus. Hirayama discloses a reproducing apparatus for reproducing a recording medium which stores video information and plural pieces of audio information related to the video information. Hirayama does not describe anything related to an after-recording operation, and does not disclose that any audio information is generated by an after-recording operation. Therefore, Hirayama fails to disclose the

"second audio stream provided for an after-recording operation" as recited in claim 29, and thus also does not disclose "status information indicating whether or not the second audio stream is provided for an after-recording operation and whether or not after-recording data is recorded to the second audio stream" as recited in claim 29.

The Examiner asserts that the VID of the management information of Hirayama corresponds to the status information of claim 29. However, since Hirayama does not describe anything related to an after-recording operation, it is incorrect to assert that the VID of Hirayama is status information indicating whether or not second audio stream is provided for an after-recording operation and whether or not after-recording data is recorded to the second audio stream as recited in claim 29.

Accordingly, the method of claim 29 is not disclosed or in any way suggested by Hirayama. Moreover, it would not have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the present invention was made to modify Hirayama in such a manner as to result in the invention recited in claim 29. Thus, it is submitted that claim 29 is allowable over Hirayama.

Claim 30 recites a playback method for an information recording medium including an area for storing a data stream including a video stream, a first audio stream, and a second audio stream provided for an after-recording operation. The method of claim 30 includes receiving a request for switching an audio stream to play back from the first audio stream to the second audio stream, checking whether or not the first audio stream is the same as the second audio stream, and indicating error information without playing back the second audio stream if the same audio is played back. Thus, as with claim 29, the playback method according to claim 30 is based on an audio stream that is provided for an after-recording operation. When the first audio stream is the same as the second audio stream, the audio to be reproduced is not changed even if the user attempts to switch from the first audio stream to the second audio stream. However, without indicating error information, the user might incorrectly assume that the reproduction apparatus is not working properly because of the possible perceived failure of switching from the first audio stream to the second audio stream because the audio is the same in the first audio stream and the second audio stream. In order to avoid such a misunderstanding by the user, claim 30 recites checking whether or not the first audio stream

is the same as the second audio stream, and indicating error information without playing back the second audio stream if the same audio is played back.

As discussed in detail above, Hirayama fails to disclose or in any way suggest anything related to an after-recording operation. Thus, Hirayama fails to disclose or suggest the features of claim 30 discussed above. Moreover, it would not have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the present invention was made to modify the system of Hirayama in such a manner as to result in, or otherwise render obvious, the invention recited in claim 30. Thus, claim 30 is allowable over Hirayama.

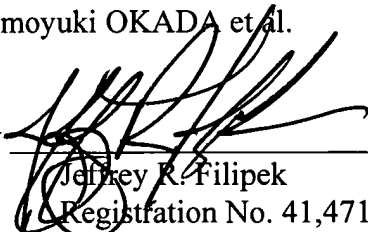
In view of the above, it is submitted that claims 29 and 30 are allowable over the prior art of record, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Tomoyuki OKADA et al.

By



Jeffrey R. Filipek
Registration No. 41,471
Attorney for Applicants

JRF/fs
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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